DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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BERLIN

By the Editor

In a few short days the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four will be meeting in Berlin to discuss, amongst other things, the future of Germany.

The newspapers of the world will soon be filled with a confusion of proposals and counter-proposals: "All German Elections Now" — "German Delegates Must be Heard" — "International Commission Should Supervise Germany" — and dozens more.

These questions are important of course; but here is the real problem:

SHOULD GERMANY BE ALLOWED TO MENACE HER NEIGHBOURS ONCE AGAIN?

We do not know what specific proposals will be made by the Foreign Ministers at the coming conference, but proposals made hitherto by the Soviet Union can be summarised like this:

A united democratic Germany should be formed, in which militarism and neo-fascism should be banned; the peace treaty should forbid German membership in military pacts aimed against other nations; foreign occupation troops should be speedily withdrawn.

Western proposals have been less definitely formulated, but they appear to be:

The present West German regime, with its cabinet of nazi veterans, should be extended to the whole of Germany; a new Wehrmacht should be raised, commanded by Hitler's generals; Germany should join the aggressive "European Defence Community" or "Atlantic Pact"; American occupation troops should stay in Germany for generations.

WHICH DO YOU WANT?

WHAT 1953 BROUGHT EAST GERMANY

Wage increases, pension increases, improvement of health services to a total value of 447 million marks.

Price reductions to a total value of 540 million marks.

Tax reductions, particularly for low income groups, to a value of 70 million marks.

Concessions to farmers to the value of 476 million marks.

Extra government grants for housing of 600 million marks.

Salary increases for doctors and dentists valued at 20 million marks.

These savings mean that every man, woman and child in the German Democratic Republic was on the average 125 marks better off in 1953 than in the previous year. For the average family this represented a gain in income sufficient to pay the rent for nine months.

DIAL MUNICH 80936 ... IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO A NAZI SPY

If you feel like talking to a Gestapo officer who now works for the neo-nazi West German Spy Service run with American money, all you have to do is to put in a trunk call to Munich 80936 in the U. S. Zone of West Germany, and ask to talk to Max Preusser.

This is the alias of Max Staudinger, 50 year old Gestapo officer who directs one of the branches of the "Von Gehlen Intelligence Service" from his apartment at 24 Lichtinger Strasse in the Munich suburb of Pasing.

If you would prefer to talk to an SS officer, then put in your telephone call to Hamburg 554403 in the British Zone. The man who will probably come to the phone is Herr Somann, alias Lange, former SS Captain who now heads the Hamburg branch of the spy service.

British readers would perhaps be especially interested in meeting Major Karl Edmund Gartenfeld, who specialised in smuggling nazi agents into Britain during the Second World War. They can find him in the Gartenfeld Garage, 14 Bendler Strasse in the British Sector of Berlin, just a few yards from the ruins of the old Prussian War Ministry. The garage and repair shop is just the cover for his real activity smuggling saboteurs and spies into East Germany.

The facts, names and addresses given above, with details of literally hundreds of other full time spies in both East and West Germany, have come to light in the past few weeks as the result of careful investigation by the security authorities of the German Democratic Republic, and

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(cont. from p. 1)

DIAL MUNICH 80936

very full statements made by former members of the spy gang.

The "Von Gehlen Intelligence Service," which is apparently the largest and most active of all the various spy services operating against East Germany, is headed by ex-General Gustav von Gehlen, former chief of the Eastern Intelligence Department of the nazi General Staff.

Here is what the London newspaper "Daily Express" had to say about the organisation on March 10th 1953, in an article by Sefton Delmer, former close associate of Goering and other nazi leaders, who was himself connected with British Intelligence in the Second World War. Delmer wrote:

"For the time being the ex-Nazi graduates of the allied re-education campaign are on their best behaviour. They hope in this way that many of them will win both personal profit and high position in the American-sponsored drive for German rearmament.

"The secret Intelligence organisation run by Major-General Gehlen, former head of Hitler's Soviet intelligence section, is an example in point.

"General Gehlen's organisation is receiving $ 3½ million a year (about 1¼ million sterling) from its American sponsors, a sum which they are able to multiply into many times its dollar value by skilful market operations...

"Gehlen and his men are hoping to become the most important element in the Intelligence Division of the new integrated European Army".

Today, General von Gehlen, who is known in the organisation under the alias "Dr. Schneider," and by the code number 30, commands his huge organisation, which is believed to have more than 2000 full-time agents, from a large house in the U. S. military cantonment in Pullach near Munich. The headquarters building is camouflaged under the name "Sueddeutsche Industrieverwertung" (South German Industrial Assessment), and a large part of the mail for this headquarters is delivered by the U. S. Army Post Office, which of course handles no ordinary German mail.

Former leading members of the Gehlen Organisation state that the 400 members of the central staff are almost entirely former nazi intelligence experts, plus military espionage experts from the old Wehrmacht. A certain amount of information about the highly secret work of the organisation has "leaked" because of conflicts between "traditional" old style militarists and "upstart nazi" experts on the staff.

U.S. EXPLOSIVES FOR WEST BERLIN AGENTS

American-made explosives are being used to explode "propaganda bombs" over East Berlin and East Germany, police investigations show.

In this column we reproduce a label attached to such a balloon-borne bomb which exploded one day this month on the roof of a house in Lichtenberg, East Berlin, scattering thousands of pamphlets preaching war-hatred.

The explosion damaged the label, but the words "Dewey & Almy, ?AREX, Cambridge (?) Mass" are still readable.

A hole over three feet wide was torn in the roof by the explosion, and if the balloon-bomb had fallen on anybody he would probably have been killed.

The pamphlets were signed by the notorious West Berlin "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity", which in the past has organised armed attacks on East German police, arson, and bomb explosions under railway bridges.

The American "Ford Foundation" of 914 East Green St, Pasadena 1, California is one of the U. S. bodies which has given large financial grants to this West Berlin sabotage and spy group. On February 13th 1953 GERMAN REPORT printed a photostatic copy of a letter signed by Martin Quigley, Information Officer of the Ford Foundation, stating "The Ford Foundation made a... grant of $ 150,000 to the National Committee for a Free Europe so that it, in turn, could support the humanitarian activities of 'The Fighting Group Against Inhumanity'."

Nazi Pilots Train in Britain

The first group of nazi pilots who will train on modern planes at Hamble Airfield in England, left Germany on January 4th, the West German Press Agenoy reported.

Some of the pilots selected for training in Britain were there before when they dropped bombs from nazi planes during World War Two.

Luftwaffe Men for U. S. Air Force

The U. S. Air Forces in Germany will recruit 3,500 German technicians during the next six months to act as ground personnel, Air Force H. Q. in Wiesbaden announced on December 28th 1953. A large proportion of the new German recruits will be veterans of the nazi Luftwaffe.

Life Imprisonment for SS Man

A former SS man and concentration camp guard was one of the agents of a West German spy ring sentenced to life imprisonment by Magdeburg District Court on December 11th.

The court passed life sentences on Armin Zopf, the SS Sergeant who had been a guard at Flossenbuerg Concentration Camp; Fedora von Steinmetz, former estate owner and member of the nazi Luftwaffe espionage service; and former nazi Lieutenant Johannes Blauert. Eight other accused were sentenced to between 6 and 15 years imprisonment.

All the accused were members of the West German Military Espionage Organisation headed by nazi Colonel Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz, a professional murderer. (A fully documented biography of Heinz was given on page 4 of GERMAN REPORT dated December 11th.)

They were found guilty of military, economic and political espionage.

Tank Shops Expand

The big U. S. Tank Repair Shops at the Butzbach Ordnance Depot in the American Zone of Germany are to be greatly expanded in 1954, U. S. Headquarters in Germany announced on December 28th 1953.

Plans to close the Ordnance Depot have been reversed, and 800 new German technicians will be hired to staff the expanded works.

SUDS CRASH SOUND BARRIER?

An East German factory has begun production of a "supersonic" washing machine, which cleans clothes by high-frequency vibrations. There is a big waiting list of housewives who want one of the 5000 machines scheduled for production during 1954.

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During the current year East German factories will turn out 60,000 television sets to meet the rapidly growing demand. Most of the new sets will have 10-inch or 12-inch screens, instead of the 8-inch screen hitherto used.

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Over 800,000 bicycles will be produced in East Germany during 1954, and production is expected to top one million in 1955. A large proportion of this year's production will be light-weight sports models.

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East Germany's Economic Plan for 1954 does not overlook children. It specifies that sweet factories should turn out more "penny sweets" — lollipops, gob-stoppers and so on. More and better lemonade and soda-pop for the hot summer months are also specified.

"Ready for Trade With All" — Planning Chief

The German Democratic Republic is ready and willing to enter into trade relations with all countries in East and West, Bruno Leuschner, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, announced in Berlin.

"We are ready in the coming year to expand our trade with the capitalist countries, and to make all forms of trade agreement as long as they are based on the principle of equality and mutual advantage.

"Trade with the German Democratic Republic will be of particular interest for many small countries in the capitalist world market, which find difficulty in balancing their payments because of their dependent status. The German Democratic Republic will be glad to buy their products."

German Writer Dies

Rudolf Leonard, anti-fascist German writer, died in Berlin on December 19th 1953, aged 64. Leonard had to flee Germany in 1933 when Hitler came to power.

He spent the entire nazi period in France, where he was arrested and thrown into concentration camp after the German occupation. He made a daring escape, and fought in the ranks of the resistance movement in the south of France.

EAST GERMAN COST OF LIVING DOWN 30%

The cost of living has fallen in East Germany by nearly one third since 1950, official statistics published in Berlin show, and the curve is continuing to fall.

The Economic Plan for 1954, details of which have just been announced, forsees that wages will rise by a further five percent during the coming year, and further price cuts are expected.

During 1954 the main emphasis in production is to be placed on increasing the supply, quality and variety of consumer goods, which have had to take a back seat during the past few years in which all the emphasis was placed on the development of heavy industry. Heavy industrial production is scheduled to rise nearly 7% during the year, while consumer goods will increase by 23%.

An official Government declaration on the production of consumer goods, published at the end of 1953, strongly criticised the poor quality of many of the textiles and shoes at present being produced. Other goods of inferior quality included shaving soap, furniture and chocolate. The Government declaration made specific proposals for ensuring better quality, including a drive to market all goods under trade marks, so that customers could choose the goods which gave satisfactory service.

Big help in the form of credits and in other ways will be given to small businessmen so that they can help to satisfy the big demand for consumer goods of all types.

"DIPLOMATIC" NOTES

Here are some notes from the biography of Wilhelm Melchers, recently appointed West German Minister to Iraq:

In the 1930's Melchers worked as nazi consul in Haifa, and later was promoted to head of the Oriental Department of Ribbentrop's Foreign Ministry.

Evidence was given at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials that during the war nazi-collaborator Grand Mufti Haj Amin Husseini asked Melchers to intervene in a plan under which 600 Jewish children would have been able to leave Germany for Palestine. Melchers intervened, and the children were gassed.

The newly appointed West German Consul General in Hong Kong, Dr. Herbert Dittmann, joined the nazi party in 1937. He worked closely with Ribbentrop in the Personnel Department of the nazi Foreign Ministry. His nazi record was so blatant, that even a West German Parliamentary Commission recommended in 1952 that Dittmann "should be removed from the Foreign Ministry because of the assistance he gave to a group of National Socialists infiltrating the Foreign Ministry."

HEALTH FIGURES IN EAST GERMANY

Total national expenditure on public health (in million marks)

1951	1952	1953
5,800	7,300	8,200

Expenditure on government Kindergartens (in million marks)

1951	1952	1953
70	100	135,6

Increase in Medical and Child Care (1950 = 100)

	1951	1952	1953
Government clinics	118	136.5	150
Factory medical services	123	154.25	167
Mothers' and Infants' Care	117.25	147	157,5
Accomodation in Creches	175	300	412

From 1947 to 1953 more than 2 million workers and office employees spent their holidays in trade union holiday homes.

Between 1950 and 1952 the trade unions and the government spent over 27 million marks on holiday homes.

PORTRAIT OF A SPY

By John Peet

I listened to a fascist spy telling his life story last week.

It was in the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin, where the spy, 38-year-old Werner Wilhelm Haase, was on trial on charges of espionage and activities designed to further militarism and fascism.

Together with journalists from all parts of Germany and from many foreign lands, I sat fascinated while Haase, a pasty faced little man with a sharp nose, told the court his story in a steady voice.

He had been born into a military family in Berlin, he said, and in 1934, when he was nineteen, he had volunteered as cadet officer in the army which Hitler was just beginning to build up for war.

The war was his big chance to get on in life, and he won rapid promotion as a rabid nazi officer, winning the Iron Cross, First Class and the "German Cross in Gold." Before the war ended he had taken over command of a regiment.

The end of the war meant an end to his dreams. For a few years he thought he would never be able to continue his military "career." Then, in 1951, he heard of the plans to form a new West German army, and immediately put in his application.

He was told that his application had been registered, and he would be informed when the time was ripe. Soon afterwards, a man in civilian clothes turned up, saying that he had heard of his application to Bonn, and offered Werner Haase a job in the von Gehlen spy ring.

"I told the man that I really wanted to become a front-line officer again, and he assured me that I would be able to transfer to a regiment as soon as the European Army had been established," Haase told the court.

So it was arranged, and Haase started on his career as a spy, a career which ended not many months later in the Supreme Court, which sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Haase had turned out to be an efficient spy and spy organiser, and had cast a wide network of agents in East Germany. The agents were in many cases provided with American-made portable radio transmitters for conveying information to West Berlin.

Haase himself was arrested by East German Security Forces at the beginning of November 1953, as he was attempting to lay a secret telephone cable (from U. S. Army stock) between East and West Berlin.

With Haase in the dock at the trial were six other members of the von Gehlen Intelligence Service. They were almost all of them former officers or non-commissioned officers in Hitler's Wehrmacht who had allowed themselves to be recruited into the spy network because they would welcome a new war.

The almost unbelievable fact that the accused knew that their activities could well help to pave the way for a new war was clearly shown during the examination of Karl Heinz Schmidt, who had been trained by the spy organisation to act as radio operator.

"I realised that when war broke out, I should probably be called up, as an able-bodied man, so I arranged for my wife to go to West Berlin and train to operate the radio station too," he calmly told the court.

The Supreme Court passed sentences of life imprisonment on Haase and two other accused. The remainder received sentences of twelve and fifteen years' imprisonment.

FLASHBACK

The village of Brackenheim, French Zone, has just presented one of its citizens Friedrich Dath with a free plot of land on which he can build a house. The presentation was made to mark the award by Hitler to Herr Dath of the Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross.

You may think that that is a newspaper clipping from the year 1943 or so. You are wrong. The presentation took place in November 1953. It was originally decided upon by the nazi village council in February 1945, three months before the end of the war, and has just been carried out.

$250 Pension for Nazi Mayor

The West German authorities have granted a pension of 950 marks monthly (over $250) to Dr. Hans Windgassen, nazi veteran who "cleansed" the Duesseldorf City Administration of Jews, Socialists and Communists after Hitler came to power in 1933.

During the war Dr. Windgassen acted as Mayor in Riga, in the nazi-occupied Latvian Soviet Republic.

Not satisfied with this generous pension, Windgassen has sued for the payment of back pension to the sum of 22,800 marks.

NAZI EXPERTS SUPERVISE RE-ARMAMENT

The Armed Forces Committee of the West German Parliament, which calls itself the "European Defence Community Committee" is well equipped with experts from the nazi armed forces.

Members of the West German Parliament appointed to the committee include Hitler's ex-Admiral Hellmuth Guido Alexander Heye, and Hitler's ex-General Hasso von Manteuffel, nazi ex-Colonel Alfred Burgimeister, Major Hermann Schwamm who was decorated by Hitler with the "Knight's Cross to the Iron Cross," and nazi regimental commander Erich Mende.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the West German Parliament is largely staffed with aristocrats. Here is a partial list: Count Otto Bismarck, Prince Hubertus zu Loewenstein-Wertheim-Freudenberg, Count Karl von Spreti, Baron Georg Manteuffel-Szoege, Freiherr Max Riederer von Paar.

Another member of the Foreign Affairs Committee is Hans Joachim von Merkatz, leader of the parliamentary fraction of the Free Democratic Party. During the war Merkatz was General Secretary of the "Latin American Institute" in Berlin, which trained nazi agents for their jobs in Spanish-speaking countries. In 1944 he was accessory after the fact to the murder in Spain of Acting British Minister Arthur Yenken. Full details of this murder, which was actually carried out by a certain Dr. Panhorst, today ministerial counsellor in Department 5 of the West German Ministry of Economics, were given in GERMAN REPORT dated January 16th 1953.

GOING TO SCHOOL IN EAST BERLIN

By Joan Becker

My small son and daughter attend the Primary School in the Schoenhauser Allee in Prenzlauer Berg, Berlin North West, which opened at Easter 1953.

The school was built on a site which had been totally destroyed by bombing. Here in the old days stood a gloomy barrack-like school in a cinder yard, surrounded on all four sides by tall tenement houses.

The new building, which cost 1,600,000 marks, is white, two-storeyed and full of windows, built so as to catch all the sun. All class-rooms face south-east, south and south-west and only corridor windows face away from the sun.

A further 2,300,000 marks are being spent on the big gymnasium, assembly hall, kindergarten and children's hostel which will be completed in 1954. Trees, garden plots and playground are already laid out.

It is a pleasure to go into the school, through the wide, cheerfully painted corridors, and to look into the big glass fronted show-cases which are always kept full of exhibits of the children's work.

Each term I spend one or two mornings listening in to the first and second classes. Parents are encouraged to do this and I make a special point of it because I am a member of the Parent-Teachers' Committee.

There are sixteen class-rooms and twenty-eight other rooms, including dining-room, laboratories, small hall, club-room for the Young Pioneers' organisation, staff rooms and so on, to accomodate seven hundred children between six and fourteen years. (In practice the average is nearer seven and fifteen, because children must have reached the age of six on the 1st of June in order to enter school in September.)

Of the twenty-one teachers most are very young, some much older and few middle-aged. The lack of experienced middle-aged teachers, one of the results of the war, is still keenly felt and cannot be quickly remedied, but there are of course some advantages in having younger and more adaptable teachers at a time when much experimenting is being done in teaching methods.

My personal experience of both young and old teachers in this school is good. My little daughter of eight, in her second school year, has had the same teacher all along, an elderly lady well over retiring age, who stays on to help fill up the gap. Her methods are not very modern, but she is a born teacher and judging by my daughter, who is of average intelligence, has produced good results with her class of thirty-eight.

The classes, which average thirty-five to forty, are still much too big, but they are being gradually reduced as new teachers finish their training. Even so, they are not so big as in West Germany, where the average is forty-six.

To mention only practical things, after sixteen months of school my daughter can read fluently, knows the simple grammatical rules (through practice, not by rote), can do quite complicated reckoning—adding and subtracting five or six numbers one after the other in her head, for example—and she writes neatly in connected handwriting in ink.

My little boy, on the other hand, began school this September at six and a half, with a young, progressive married teacher, who has three children of her own and has a very good modern teachers' training. After four months he can read simple children's stories including three-syllable words, can add and subtract within the range of ten, knows the numbers up to a hundred and writes a clear, regular script.

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CHILDREN'S NAMES IN OTHER LANDS

A page from the first reading book used in all East German Schools

His class will start writing in ink in the New Year, their second term.

Handwork, gymnastics and music are their other regular subjects and there is one optional subject—religion. A visiting teacher instructs children whose parents wish it. At present the majority of children, especially those in the junior classes, receive religious instruction.

Looking back over the educational material for beginners, one is struck by the enormous strides made. The First Year Reader issued in 1949, for instance, was a slim pamphlet with attractive illustrations, but so small that it could only serve as a skeleton guide to the teacher. Most of the work had to be done on the blackboard, owing to the paper shortage, and the children did their first homework on a slate.

In 1952 and 1953 the First Year Reader was a thick, well-bound book full of examples and really lovely pictures. There is also a plentiful supply of exercise and drawing books and nobody would dream of buying a slate any more.

The sum books are also well bound and full of illustrations, so that reckoning is really fun.

In the second year a little book called "Our Language," which contains the beginnings of grammar, with plenty of examples, is added. Reading text has to do with daily life. In their first year the children read about Christmas and Easter, about the summer holidays, about life in town and country. They learn the names of household and farm animals and know all about tractors and factories, traffic regulations and so on. Many pages are given up to descriptions of children in other countries, with charming illustrations.

In Germany school has always been a half-day affair; for the oldest from eight in the morning till two in the afternoon, with a break for lunch, and two or three hours' homework. My two have only three hours' lessons and about an hour's homework, which they do in the afternoon in the day nursery for school-age children.

Another illustration from the East German school book

OUT OF THE RUINS

By Max Schoenfeld

The writer of this article was from 1928 to 1945 a turner in the Otto Gruson works, which is now the "Georgi Dimitrov" Heavy Engineering Works in Magdeburg. This is one of the Soviet-owned works to be handed over to the German Democratic Republic on January 1st 1954. He is now works manager.

A Hard Start

In 1945 we took over a bombed-out works; administration buildings lay in ruins, the roofs had been blown off all the production shops, machines were either heavily damaged or totally destroyed. In some shops the rubble was piled roof-high.

Then came our Soviet friends, who helped us to clear away the ruins, repair the machines and rebuild the administration block. The muddy courtyard was paved for the first time in the history of the works. Production began and urgently needed new technical personnel were trained at the work-bench.

Transformation

The old smelting works developed into a modern engineering plant which produces mainly equipment for rolling mills, cement works and blast furnaces. Fifteen giant lathes, gearing machines, planing benches, drilling machines and centre lathes representing a capital investment of about ten million marks have been acquired, and in 1952 we were producing almost four times as much as in 1949.

Worker's Welfare

In the old days there was no kindergarten where working mothers could send their children and no workers' holiday home where they could go on carefree holidays with their families.

There was no club such as we have now, where workers can read, study, hear good music and see the newest films. Neither was there a works kitchen such as ours, which can provide good cheap meals because of the additional 80,000 marks a year which the works provides.

We used to wash in a bucket, but now we have tiled wash-rooms and changing-rooms, for which about one and a quarter million marks have been spent since 1945.

Today we have our fully equipped Pavlov Polyclinic and regular medical examination of all workers so as to detect illness in the early stages, and the works spends about 400,000 marks a year on labour protection measures, which were practically non-existent before 1945.

Sport

Before 1945 I was lucky enough to belong to a workers' handball team which played in national and international matches. But when I asked for a day off to play in a big match, the management always made difficulties: "Are you here to work or to play ball?" they used to ask. Nowadays our own omnibuses take workers to matches and we have our own training camp run and financed by the works.

Every worker in the "Georgi Dimitrov" works knows all this, but it is sometimes good to remind the younger ones of how things were before our Soviet colleagues came to our assistance in 1945.

Production for Home Use

Some people think that the Soviet-owned works have only produced for export to the Soviet Union. This is not true; we have also produced large quantities of equipment for the German Democratic Republic, eg. for the rolling mills in Burg, Kirchmoeser, Olbernhau, Thale and Hennigsdorf, which has greatly helped in our economic development.

Up till now, Soviet and German colleagues have run the works jointly. When we take over full responsibility on January 1st, 1954, we are determined to carry on and extend our works along the lines indicated by our Soviet friends.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

"CLOTHES FOR POOR EAST GERMANS"

Charity Racket Aids Cold War

Sometime a few months ago Mr. Harry H. Ferber, of Wynot, Cedar County, Nebraska, U. S. A., made up a parcel of fine warm clothes which he gave to a charitable organisation collecting allegedly for the "poor freezing people of East Germany."

Mr. Ferber will be surprised to learn from this number of GERMAN REPORT that his generous gift landed in the store of a rag dealer in West Berlin, where it was torn up and pulped.

The story started on September 22nd 1953, when the U. S. State Department announced that voluntary organisations in the United States, including the Society of Friends, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the World Council of Churches were expected to co-operate in collecting cast-off clothing for "the needy people in East Germany."

GERMAN REPORT wrote on October 2nd: "Any warmhearted American who is tempted to give clothing to a charity organisation ... is being taken for a sucker by the cold war merchants."

It now appears that they were being taken for suckers by the rag merchants too.

The scandal came to light when prisoners in the auxiliary prison in Spandau, British Sector of Berlin, were given bundles of alleged "rags" to tear up and sort, ready for the pulping machines.

The prisoners were astonished to discover that the "rags" were cast-off clothing in first class condition. One of the prisoners reported on his release that 80 % of the "rags" were "almost new," that 15 % needed minor repairs, and that 5 % were in rather bad shape.

This was suspicious enough; but in the pockets of many of the articles of clothing the prisoners found little labels and scraps of paper with the names and addresses of the donors. Our picture shows a few of the hundreds of such labels found in the clothing.

Here are the names and addresses, as far as they are decipherable; only a few of the labels are shown on the photograph:

Harry H. Ferber,
Wynot, Cedar Co., Nebraska, USA

Edwin Arndt,
Springfield, Minnesota, USA

Blanche La Comte,
Bombay, New York, USA

S. M. Arnoold,
Rolson, Montana, USA

Marilyn A. R. Fossom,
Canton, South Dakota, USA

Mrs. Robert Corey,
Houston, RR 2 Minnesota, USA

Corin L. Olsen,
South Dakota, USA

Emma Cohen,
5402 Oneida, Duluth, Minnesota, USA

Julia Lien,
505—17 St., Benson,
Minnesota, USA

Hilten
Martha Berg Hus,
Sandáknoein 21, Oslo, Norway

H. Heyerdahl,
N. H. Abelso 35 b, Oslo, Norway

From notes on some of the labels it appears that the clothing was originally donated for victims of the flood catastrophe in the Netherlands.

The rags were supplied to the prison by the rag dealer P. Balzer of 35/38 Lindenufer, Spandau, British Sector of West Berlin, who had obviously purchased them from some official body or "charitable" institution.

Herr Balzer is very pleased with the whole affair: he has just bought himself a new luxury limousine from the proceeds.

Top sponsors of the clothing collections in the United States and other countries probably feel satisfied too: they have dragged thousands of warm-hearted decent people into the cold war, and deluded them into donating clothing which could well have been used in their own lands.

Copies of this issue of GERMAN REPORT are being sent to clothes donors who can be identified, and we shall be glad to receive their comments on this cruel deception.

(N. B. GERMAN REPORT has no proof that any of the charitable organisations named in this article knew of the use to which the clothes were being put. If they were fooled too, then it is high time that they investigate, and make sure that their names are not coupled with such frauds.)

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

I don't want to bore readers with warnings about the big business press, but the forthcoming Four Power Conference is bound to produce its quota of calculated press lies.

One of these is already being busily launched by various West Berlin newspapers: the story that some sort of "big Communist demonstrations to put the Conference under pressure" are planned.

Specifically, the West Berlin press has been running stories about thousands of "members of the Free German Youth from West Germany" who are allegedly being assembled round Berlin ready for the Conference.

Hash

This is just a re-hashed form of the story which was hawked with some success in the spring of 1950. If readers in Britain and America care to go to their nearest library and look up the big-circulation papers for May 1950, they will find blood-curdling stories about a "march on West Berlin" planned by "blue-shirted Communist Free German Youth."

When the hundreds of thousands of members of the Free German Youth did nothing except stage a gay festival in East Berlin, as had been planned from the very beginning, the western press trumpeted triumphantly that only "western determination in the face of red threats" had saved the situation.

You have been warned.

Discovery

The official West German organ "The Bulletin," which describes itself as "A weekly survey of German affairs issued by the Press and Information Office of the German Federal Government" has just discovered GERMAN REPORT.

In its issue dated November 26th 1953, a copy of which has just reached this office, "The Bulletin" devotes half a page, under the title "A Warning," to cautioning readers about the dangers of reading GERMAN REPORT.

The article is so interestingly inaccurate that we print some extracts below. Our comments are in italics:

By John Peet

"It has just come to our attention that the Soviet-sponsored government of East Germany has started a new pro-Communist drive to influence English-speaking nations and to discredit the Federal Republic of West Germany and its ambassadors in foreign countries.

"Admirably suited for this purpose, the 'German Democratic Report' is being revived . . .

(The full title of this paper is "Democratic German Report". "Revived" means brought back to life. Since this paper was never dead, the operation appears difficult.)

"John Peet . . . started publishing the 'German Democratic Report' in 1951. It however, faded out . . . at the beginning of 1953, at which time John Peet, too, was last heard of."

(GERMAN REPORT was founded in January 1952. Since then it has appeared with absolute regularity once every fourteen days, except for one previously announced gap of 28 days when I took my summer vacation in 1953. The thousands of readers in all parts of the world, and the many hundreds of people to whom I sent letters during 1953 will be interested to know that I "have not been heard of" since the beginning of the year.)

"Now, however, renegade Peet must be back from somewhere."

(Candidly I can think of nowhere I could be back from except Ahrenshoop, on the Baltic Coast of Germany, where I spent my summer vacation, and I have been back from there since July).

"Together with his return to the good graces of his Soviet-zone friends has come an immediate revival of his publication. One of the first articles was designed to discredit a German ambassador by distorting the facts."

(For "revival" see note above. The article "discrediting a German ambassador" is presumably that which appeared in GERMAN REPORT on October 16th 1953 under the title "Warning to Diplomats".

In this article it was shown, with quotations from the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, that West German Ambassador Theo Kordt had a proud record as a nazi diplomat: a record including the purchase of secret documents stolen from British Embassies, pin-pointing targets in Britain for nazi bombers, and so on.)

FRENCH SEE „EUROPEAN ARMY"

"Tribune des Nations", Paris

"No, madame, we can't guarantee that the whole works won't fall on top of you."

Offer

Here is an offer: if the West German Government Press Office can prove that GERMAN REPORT distorted the facts about Theo Kordt, we shall be only too pleased to print a correction, displayed as prominently as the original article.

There is just one small condition attached to the offer. The West German Government "Bulletin" should correct its own exceedingly misleading article about GERMAN REPORT.

P. S. To help the West German Press Office to know what is really going on here, we decided to give them a year's subscription to GERMAN REPORT as a Christmas present.

Coincidence?

American newsmagazine "Time" named West German Chancellor Adenauer "Man of the Year" for 1953.

At the end of 1938, eight months before the outbreak of World War Two, "Time" named German Chancellor Hitler man of the year.

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